

# HOW TO SAFELY DISPOSE OF UNUSED OPIOIDS AND OTHER PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS

Far too often, opioid addiction begins right at home with the misuse of prescription medicines. You can help prevent addiction in your communities by using one of the following methods to safely dispose of them:

## 1 - Use Our Drug Disposal Kit

Our drug disposal pouches allow you to safely discard your old and unused drugs. Simply put your pills into the pouch, add water, seal, and throw the pouch away in the garbage. The water reacts with chemicals in the pouch to nullify any active ingredients in your medicine.



## 2 - Visit a Local Take-Back Location

A number of local pharmacies in Ohio have programs that collect old and unwanted prescription drugs. Call your local pharmacy today or visit the following site to locate a program near you: <http://bit.ly/2H5Ft7k>

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration has additional resources. Go to the DEA's website and type in your zip code to locate more programs: <http://bit.ly/2eNpAZ5>

## 3 - Make Use of Household Items

You can also use **cat litter** or old **coffee grounds** to dispose of old medications. Mix your drugs with the either of these household products, seal them in an airtight container, and throw it into the garbage. If you use this method, please first call the Ohio EPA to ensure your drugs can be disposed of this way as some medicines may require a different approach.



**Ohio EPA: 800-329-7518**



**Hours of Operation: Weekdays, 8 AM – 5 PM**

**In 2016, nearly 64,000 Americans died from drug overdoses – including from illicit medications and prescription opioids.<sup>1</sup>**



**Two-thirds of individuals who use heroin began with misusing prescription drugs.<sup>2</sup>**



**Though unintentional deaths involving prescription opioids have steadily declined in Ohio, there is always more to be done.<sup>3</sup> Let's work together to continue ensuring our communities are safe from prescription drug misuse.**



1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Drug Overdose Deaths in the United States, 1999–2016," <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db294.pdf> December 2017.

2. National Institutes of Health, "Increased Use of Heroin as an Initiating Opioid of Abuse," <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/28582659> 23 May 2017.

3. Ohio Department of Health, "2016 Ohio Drug Overdose Data: General Findings," <https://www.odh.ohio.gov/-/media/ODH/ASSETS/Files/health/injury-prevention/2016-Ohio-Drug-Overdose-Report-FINAL.pdf> November 2017.